

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 3, lines 1-8, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Four different forms of a-type IGF-I mRNA have been observed in rainbow trout (rt), *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, and are designated as IGF-I Ea-1 (**SEQ ID NO: 1**), Ea-2, Ea-3 and Ea-4 (4). Nucleotide sequence comparison of the four size forms of IGF-I mRNAs reveal that the size differences among these mRNA species are due to insertions or deletions in the E domain regions of the molecules. The first 15 predicted amino acid residues of the four E-peptides share identical sequences among themselves as well as with pro-IGF-I E-peptides of human, mouse, and rat. The presence of the C-terminal 20 amino acid residues, sharing 70% identity with their human counterparts, identifies them to the a-type E-peptides.